

B1 *Art*

1. ~~(Twice Amended)~~ A decorative floor covering comprising:
a substrate; and
a radiation cured pigmented topcoat disposed on the substrate having a stain resistance of about less than 150 Delta E units, wherein the topcoat comprises a polymeric resin binder and pigment, wherein the resin of the resin binder consists essentially of a thermoset resin selected from the group consisting of an ultraviolet light curable resin, electron beam curable resin, and a combination thereof.

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5. (Amended) The decorative floor covering of claim 1, wherein a printed pattern is interposed between the substrate and the topcoat.

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9. ~~(Amended)~~ The decorative floor covering of claim 7, wherein the embossed texture has raised surfaces and indentations, and the pigmented topcoat is disposed mainly on the raised surfaces.

10. (Amended) The decorative floor covering of claim 7, wherein the embossed texture has raised surfaces and indentations, and the pigmented topcoat is disposed mainly in the indentations.

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12. (Twice Amended) A decorative floor covering comprising:
a substrate;
a radiation cured pigmented wear layer disposed on the substrate; and
a radiation cured topcoat disposed on and adjacent to the radiation cured pigmented wear layer, the topcoat layer having a stain resistance of less than about 150 Delta E units,

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wherein the topcoat and radiation cured pigmented wear layer each comprise a polymeric resin binder, wherein the resin of the resin binder consists essentially of a thermoset resin selected from the group consisting of an ultraviolet light curable resin, electron beam curable resin, and a combination thereof.

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16. (Amended) The decorative floor covering of claim 12, wherein a printed pattern is interposed between the substrate and the topcoat.

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17. (Twice Amended) The decorative floor covering of claim 16, wherein the topcoat or pigmented wear layer is in register with the printed pattern.

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18. (Amended) The decorative floor covering of claim 12, wherein the substrate has a textured surface selected from the group consisting of mechanically embossed texture, chemically embossed texture, and chemically and mechanically embossed texture.

19. (Amended) The decorative floor covering of claim 18, wherein the topcoat or wear layer is in register with the embossed texture.

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20. (Twice Amended) The decorative floor covering of claim 18, wherein the embossed texture has raised surfaces and indentations, and the pigmented wear layer is disposed mainly on the raised surfaces.

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21. (Twice Amended) The decorative floor covering of claim 18, wherein the embossed texture has raised surfaces and indentations, and the pigmented wear layer is disposed mainly in the indentations.

22. (Twice Amended) The decorative floor covering of claim 18, wherein the topcoat or pigmented wear layer comprises nacreous pigments.

[Add the following new claims 56-59.]

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56. (NEW) The decorative floor covering of claim 9, wherein there is substantially no pigmented topcoat in the indentations.

57. (NEW) The decorative floor covering of claim 10, wherein there is substantially no pigmented topcoat on the raised surfaces.

58. (NEW) The decorative floor covering of claim 20, wherein there is substantially no pigmented wear layer in the indentations.

59. (NEW) The decorative floor covering of claim 21, wherein there is substantially no pigmented wear layer on the raised surfaces.

REMARKS

Within the present application, claims 1-3, 5-14, 16-28 and 56-59 are pending.

Within the present Preliminary Amendment, claims 1, 5, 9, 10, 12, 16-22 have been amended.

Independent claims 1 and 12 have been amended such that the resin binder component is restricted to those resins consisting essentially of a thermoset resin selected from the group